

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-16 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A mediation negotiating method ~~of~~ for mediating a negotiation between a requestor and responders ~~by using a~~ an electronic network, comprising:
~~a request forming step which forms~~ forming requesting conditions in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of said requestor received via the network;

~~a negotiation requesting step which forms~~ forming a negotiation field;
~~inputs inputting~~ said requesting conditions, ~~and~~;
~~notifies notifying, via the network,~~ the requesting conditions to the responders selected in accordance with said requesting conditions; ~~and~~

~~a negotiation responding step which receives~~ receiving, via the network, response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and
~~notifies notifying, via the network,~~ said requestor and the other responders of the ~~received~~ response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said request forming ~~step~~, priorities are allocated to request articles or the request contents such as service, price, term of delivery, and the like, thereby forming the requesting conditions with said priorities as said requesting conditions.

3. (currently amended) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a requestor and responders using an electronic network, comprising: A method according to claim 1,

forming requesting conditions in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of said requestor received via the network;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;
notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to responders selected in
accordance with said requesting conditions;
receiving, via the network, response information from the responders who participate in
said negotiation field; and
notifying, via the network, said requestor and the other responders of the received
response information, and

wherein in said negotiation responding ~~step~~, when said requestor is notified of the response information inputted into said negotiation field, the response information is sorted in accordance with the priorities of said request contents is notified.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said request forming ~~step~~, an abstract mediating request from the requestor is analyzed and one or a plurality of requesting conditions are formed.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting ~~step~~, the request contents including the priorities in the requesting conditions inputted into said negotiation field are changed and inputted again.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting ~~step~~, if there are a plurality of requesting conditions, the responder is selected under a condition that he corresponds to at least one of said plurality of requesting conditions, and the negotiation field between the responders and said requestor is formed.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein
in said negotiation requesting ~~step~~, a negotiation term is set into said negotiation field and the requesting conditions are inputted, and
in said negotiation responding ~~step~~, the end of the negotiation is discriminated and the negotiation field is closed.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding ~~step~~, the negotiation field is closed by a negotiation decision instruction of said requestor or an expiration of the negotiation term.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding ~~step~~ the negotiation term is extended on the basis of an instruction from the requestor.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding ~~step~~, when conditions which have been preset are satisfied upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein when there is no response information or the number of response information does not reach a predetermined threshold value upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mediation negotiation program has been stored, wherein said mediation negotiation program comprises:

~~a request forming step which forms~~ forming requesting conditions in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of a requestor;

~~a negotiation requesting step which forms~~ forming a negotiation field;

~~inputs inputting~~ said requesting conditions; ~~and;~~

~~notifies notifying the~~ responders selected in correspondence ~~to~~ with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions; ~~and~~

~~a negotiation responding step which receives~~ receiving response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and

~~notifies notifying~~ said requestor and the other responders of said ~~received~~ response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents.

13. (currently amended) A mediation negotiating program; which causes a computer ~~of execute to:~~

~~a request forming step which forms~~ form requesting conditions in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of a requestor;

~~a negotiation requesting step which forms~~ form a negotiation field;

~~inputs input~~ said requesting conditions; ~~and;~~

~~notifies notify the~~ responders selected in correspondence ~~to~~ with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions; ~~and~~

~~a negotiation responding step which receives~~ receive response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and
~~notifies~~ notify said requester and the other responders of said ~~received~~ response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents.

14. (currently amended) A negotiation responding method, comprising:
~~a receiving step which receives~~ receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on ~~a~~ an electronic network; and
receiving, via the network, response information from responders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;
~~a negotiation responding step which prepares~~ preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;
~~first inputs~~ inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to said bid price;
in the case where another response information ~~of~~ with a cheap-cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, ~~again inputs~~ inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and
in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, ~~stops~~ stopping the input of the response information and ~~breaks~~ breaking off the negotiation.

15. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a responder program has been stored, wherein said responder program comprises:
~~a receiving step which receives~~ receiving request information inputted into ~~the a~~ negotiation field formed on a network; and
receiving response information from responders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;
~~a negotiation responding step which prepares~~ preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;
~~first inputs~~ inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;
in the case where another response information ~~of~~ with a cheap-cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, ~~again inputs~~ inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and
in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, ~~stops~~

stopping the input of the response information and ~~breaks-breaking~~ off the negotiation.

16. (currently amended) A responder program, which causes a computer to ~~execute:~~
~~a receiving step which receives~~ receive request information inputted into the ~~a~~
negotiation field formed on a network; ~~and~~
receive response information from responders arranged in accordance with the priorities
of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

~~a negotiation responding step which prepares~~ prepare an initial value, a pitch value, and
a lowest value with respect to a bid price;_i

~~first inputs-input~~ input response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid
price;_i

in the case where another response information ~~of~~ with a cheap-cheaper bid price is
recognized in said negotiation field, ~~again inputs-input~~ input response information in which the bid
price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value;_i and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, ~~steps-stop~~
the input of the response information and ~~breaks-break~~ off the negotiation.